Financial assistance to Gujarat for rural Electrification

*212. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the financial assistance provided to Gujarat State for electrification of the villages during 1991-92, and upto 31st December in 1992 and to date in 1993;

(b) whether Government have formulated any time-bound scheme/programme for electrification of all the villages of the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) Financial assistance provided by Rural Electrification Corporation to Gujarat Electricity Board for Rural Electrification Programme (including electrification of hamlets, load intensification in already electrified villages, system improvement and pumpset energisation) during the years 1991-92, upto 31st December in 1992 and to date in 1993 is as under:

Year	Financial Assistance (Rs. in crores)
1-4-91 to 31-3-1992 . . .	22.54
1-4-1992 to 31-12-1992 . .	10.29
1-1-1993 to 31-7-1993 . .	16.04

(b) and (c) The Gujarat State has already achieved cent-per-cent village electrification except for 222 villages which are reportedly not feasible for electrification.

रेशम के आयात का प्रतिकूल प्रभाव

***213. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :**
श्री सोम पाल :

क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेशम-आयात के उदारीकरण से स्वदेशी रेशम उत्पादन, व्यवसाय और रेशमी वस्त्र-उद्योग पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ने की कोई आशंका है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार इस संबंध में क्या उपाय करने जा रही है ?

वस्त्र मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जी० वेंकट स्वामी) : (क) और (ख) कच्चे रेशम के आयात सम्बन्धी नीति को उदार नहीं बनाया गया है तथा यह अभी भी निर्यात-आयात नीति के अन्तर्गत 'आयात की निषेद्ध सूची' में प्रतिबंधित मदों की सूची में ही है ।

कच्चे रेशम के आयात की अनुमति मुख्यतः निर्यात-आयात नीति के निर्यात संवर्द्धन योजनाओं के अन्तर्गत दी जाती है। इसके अतिरिक्त, कम सप्लाई होने पर अत्यावश्यकता की स्थिति में तथा उसके परिणामस्वरूप स्थानीय बाजारों में कच्चे रेशम की कीमतों में वृद्धि होने पर सरकार कीमत स्थिरीकरण के उद्देश्यों के लिए कच्चे रेशम की सीमित मात्रा में आयात करने की अनुमति देती है ।

कच्चे रेशम के आयात का देश में रेशम के उत्पादन पर किसी भी प्रकार का प्रतिकूल प्रभाव नहीं पड़ा है जोकि वर्ष 1988-89 में 10651 मी० टन से बढ़कर वर्ष 1992-93 में 14140 मी० टन तक हो गया है । तथापि, सितम्बर, 1992 के आरंभ से ही देश में रेशम की कीमतों में गिरावट आने की प्रवृत्ति रही है तथा इसके देशीय उत्पादन में वृद्धि होने के कारण कच्चे रेशम की उपलब्धता बढ़ना तथा देश में आयातित रेशम उपलब्ध होना आंशिक कारण माने जा सकते हैं।

सरकार द्वारा देशीय कच्चे रेशम की कीमतों में स्थिरता लाने के लिए उठाए जा रहे कदमों में रेशमी वस्त्र उत्पादों के लिए लदान-पूर्व निरीक्षण को दुबारा चालू करना, इन उत्पादों के लिए अग्रिम लाइसेंस योजना की समीक्षा करना तथा देश में कच्चे रेशम की कथित तस्करी

को रोकने के लिए चौकसी बढ़ाना शामिल है।

Reduction in Baggage Import-Duty

*214. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have further reduced the baggage import duty from 150 per cent to 100 per cent; and

(b) if so, what specific factors contributed to the further reduction in import duty following the earlier reduction from 255 per cent to 150 per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In respect of goods imported as passengers' baggage, the Tax Reforms Committee chaired by Prof. Raja J. Chelliah had recommended a rate of duty of 100 per cent ad valorem to be paid in foreign currency subject to some other conditions. It was observed that a number of passengers were already paying duty with foreign exchange. Moreover, making payment of duty in foreign exchange a mandatory requirement could have been interpreted as lack of adequate confidence in Indian currencv. It was accordingly decided to prescribe the seneral effective rate of duty on passengers' baggage at 100% ad valorem without the stipulation of payment of duty in foreign currency. This step is also in accordance with the Government policy to curb smuggling of consumer articles, by reducing the large margin of profit available, with a high baggage duty rate.

Export of cotton by Maharashtra Government

*215. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

fa) what is the number of cotton bales for export for which the Government of Maharshtra has requested permission;

(b) what is the quota for export of cotion bales allotted to the Government of Maharashtra; and

(c) what is the reason for not accepting the request of Maharashtra Government fully.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) Government of Maharashtra from time to time has been requesting for release of export quota of cotton, ranging from 6 lakh bales to 10 lakh bales during the current cotton season. As against this, the Government has so far allocated a quota of 6.20 lakh bales of cotton for export to Maharashtra Federation. Keeping in view the total release of 17.855 lakh bales, and also considering the demands from other State Cooperative Marketing Federations, the Maharashtra Federation has been given a quota of 6.20 lakh bales which is the highest ever so far.

Committee's recommendation on bungling by Nationalised banks

*216. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of cases pertaining to bungling of money in the nationalised banks are constantly cm the increase during the past few years,

(b) if so, what is the number of cases of bungling noticed during the years 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 and the amount likely to be involved per year in such cases;

(c) whether it is a fact that a Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Shri A. Ghosh had submitted its recommendations in this regard to Government; and

(d) if so, when these recommendations were submitted and what action has been taken by Government so far on the basis of these recommendations?